

January 21, 2020

A G E N D A

1. Call Meeting To Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge To The Flags
4. Welcome Guest
5. Citizen Presentations: At this time, any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Council. No formal action can be taken on these items at this meeting. Please limit to two minutes each.
6. Approval Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting(s)
7. Update On Police Department Activity
8. Judge Loretta Biggers – Update On Municipal Court Activity
9. Tracy Cox - Update On Main Street Program
10. Update From City Manager John Camp
11. Discussion And Action If Any to Modify Ordinance 316 Regarding Roles Of City Manager And Council To Remove Hiring Of City Secretary And Municipal Judge To Regular Council Vote
12. Swearing In Of Robert Shannon Brazeal As City Chief Of Police By Municipal Judge Loretta Biggers
13. Adjourn

The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations About Security Devices) and 551.087 (Economic Development).

The City of San Augustine held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Members present were:

Mayor	Leroy Hughes
Alderman	Marcus Hafford
Alderwoman	Pamela Teel
Alderman	Stacy Watts
Alderman	Mark Liepman
Alderman	Dan Fussell
Attorney	Tyler Bryan
City Manager	John Camp
City Secretary	Cinda Garner

Mayor Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Hughes offered prayer.

The pledge to the flags was recited in unison.

Mayor Hughes welcomed guest.

Guest present were:

Jessie Fountain	Dot Vaughn	N. Brazeal
ZF	Tracy Cox	Loretta Hughes
Romonía Barnes	Stephen Hays	Loretta Biggers
Jason Hines		

5. Citizens Presentations

There were no citizens presentations.

6. Approval Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting(s)

Alderman Stacy Watts offered the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s). Alderman Marcus Hafford seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Alderman Hafford, Alderwoman Pamela Teel, Alderman Watts, Alderman Mark Liepman, and Alderman Dan Fussell. Motion carried.

7. Update on Police Department Activity

Mayor Leroy Hughes gave the update on the police department's activity for the month of December. Activity included: cases filed 22; 7 felony arrests; 4 misdemeanor arrests; 3 assist other agencies; 104 responses on calls for service; 2 juvenile case; 2 auto accident response/report; 28 citations; 31 warnings; and 2 completed mental health warrants.

8. Judge Loretta Biggers – Update On Municipal Court Activity

Judge Loretta Biggers reported 30 citations and collections of \$1,049.38 for the month of December. Submitted to the State - \$457.38 and City retained - \$592.00.

9. Tracy Cox – Update On Main Street Program

Tracy Cox informed the council that reinvestment in the downtown for the year was \$241,550.00 including building restoration and sells.

10. **Update From City Manager John Camp**

City Manager John Camp gave an update of city activity to the council. Activity included:

- **Budget Update** –We are in good shape with the current budget.
- **FEMA Road Repairs** –All the roads should be re-opened by the end of the week January 24. There are still significant issues with FEMA reimbursement of engineering fees and the process of drawing on obligated funds. This has been a major focus for the last month while the projects were in full construction and dealing with utility interference/conflict. AR Brothers Construction has done an excellent job for San Augustine, and have worked with the City and Engineers to control costs. There might be a period of stress on the City’s budget because payment will have to be made in advance by the City and we will be reimbursed by FEMA.
- **Main Street Capital Fund Sidewalk Grant** – There is no remaining action by the City. We are waiting on the Texas Historical Commission.
- **Texas CDBG Grant** – There is no change. We are number 14 in ranking. Agency is funding 10 this year and 10 next year, all things being equal we will get funded in program year 2. This is the same comment as last month.
- **USDA Preliminary Engineering Report** – KSA is starting to work with USDA on application preparation and revision of the Preliminary Engineering report per USDA comments. USDA received payment information and invoicing for KSA from the City Manager, and was preparing to pay directly, but it has not happened yet. City Management is following up on the funds to pay for the Study.
- **Other General:** (a) Our boom mower is expected back soon. It’s getting a major re-work. (b) We have done some additional demo resulting from tornado damage at the old City barn on Water Street and the park on North Goldenway Street. That includes all the concrete tables destroyed as well as the damaged play equipment. All of those items were jagged metal, and dangerous to the public. (c) We have a stump grinder and tree trimmer on the way to grind various stumps around town and remove two trees in danger of falling on the Fire Hall. (d) We’ve cleaned the slabs and have solicited pricing to repaint the various ball courts so they can be used. (e) The Street Department is working on the playground equipment at the ball field on Hwy. 21. (f) We are working on a combination of grants to allow the City to host a hazardous waste pickup. This could be worth about \$40K, and is tentatively set up for September 9. It would be a team effort with the San Augustine County to help keep trash out of the vacant lots and creeks.
- **Any Legal Update from City Attorney** – No new changes.

11. **Discussion and Action If Any To Modify Ordinance 316 Regarding Roles Of City Manger And Council to Remove Hiring Of City Secretary And Municipal Judge To Regular Council Vote**

City Manager Camp presented modification to Ordinance 316 regarding roles of the City Secretary and Municipal Judge. Hiring and/or terminating the positions of City Secretary and Municipal Judge should be removed from the authority of the City Manager to eliminate conflicts of interest and

possible avenues for fraud. Basically, the Municipal Judge should be free from conflict with the City Manager where the interests of the City could sway the court even if by accident. It should be obvious the City Manager does not need the authority to excuse citations or be otherwise in a position to interfere in the court since the Manager also drafts ordinances. The City Secretary is a check on the City Manager's access to City monies, and so the City Manager should not be able to directly terminate that position. The council entered into executive session at 5:20 p.m. as authorized by Texas Government Code, Section §551.074 – Personnel Matters. The council reconvened into regular session at 5:45 p.m. Alderman Hafford offered the motion to amend Ordinance #316 regarding the roles of Council and City Manager to exclude the City Secretary and Municipal Judge from the unilateral authority of the City Manager as revised on January 21, 2020. Alderman Watts seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Alderman Hafford, Alderwoman Teel, Alderman Watts, Alderman Liepman, and Alderman Fussell. Motion carried.

12. Swearing In Of Robert Shannon Brazeal As City Chief Of Police By Municipal Judge Loretta Biggers

Municipal Judge Loretta Biggers administered the oath of office to Chief of Police Robert Shannon Brazeal.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.